

### ABSTRACT

A method, and apparatus, that enables high throughput of complete packets, transmitted under a packet switching protocol, such as the Internet Protocol (IP), over an ATM node. It is based on buffer threshold management, rather than on tracking individual Virtual Channels (VC). The method is particularly useful for cases in which data cells are routed according to their virtual path (VP).

The basic principle of the method is to ensure that while accepting input data, the buffer has enough available capacity to store complete frames of as many VCs as possible and that, conversely, as long as the buffer's available capacity falls short of such a condition, all incoming data are discarded.

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